Shortage of Jawans and Officers in the Army

4613. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present shortage of Jawans and Officers in the Indian Army at present;

(b) by when, the shortage is likely to be filled up; and

(c) whether Government have decided to prune the size of the Army in order to make up for the shortage; and if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) At present there is a shortage of 13,323 officers and of 38,000 personnel below officers ranks in the Army. Approximately 71,000 recruits are currently under training, and hence the deficiency of personnel below officers rank is notional.

2. Various measures have been intiated to make up the shortage in the officer cadre in the Army, such as University Entry Scheme, exemption from appearing in Combined Defence Service Examination for NCC 'C' certificate holders for induction as Short Service Commission Officer (SSCO), induction of women as officers, promotion of service JCOs/ORs into the newly created Special Commissioned Officer (SCO) cadre. An Image Projection Campaign was launched during 1997-98 with the assistance of professional advertising agency. Second Phase of the campaign has been approved.

3. Implementation of the Fifth Pay Commission's recommendations in respect of defence services has resulted in improved pay scales, allowances and concessions to Armed Forces personnel. It is expected that the cumulative effect of all the measures will result in higher intake, making up the shortfall in the vacancies to a considerable extent in the near future.

4. The Army has formulated a plan for effecting under-posting of 50,000 personnel till 31-3-99. This will be done in a phased manner covering all types of units and formations. The financial savings generated would help modernise the Army in some measure. This exercise has been planned in such a manner that there will be no adverse effect on the defence preparedness of the country.

सैनिक स्कूल

4614. श्री दिलीप सिंह जूदेव: क्या रक्षा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान त्रिपुरा और मध्य प्रदेश राज्यों में स्थापित किए गए सैनिक स्कूलों का ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) क्या उपरोक्त अवधि के दौरान अहमदाबाद और भुज में एक भी सैनिक स्कूल की स्थापना नहीं की गई;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं;

(घ) क्या अहमदाबाद और भुज में सैनिक स्कूल खोले जाने की आवश्यकता है; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की है?

रक्षा मंत्री (श्री जॉर्ज फर्नान्डीज): (क) मध्य प्रदेश राज्य में रीवा में एक सैनिक स्कूल 1962 से चल रहा है। त्रिपुरा राज्य में कोई सैनिक स्कूल नहीं है। त्रिपुरा के विद्यार्थी मणिपुर, इम्फाल में कार्यरत सैनिक स्कूल में प्रवेश पाने के लिए पात्र हैं।

(ख) से (ङ) गुजरात राज्य में बालाचड़ी में एक सैनिक स्कूल 1961 से चल रहा है। पिछले तीन वर्षों के दौरान देश में कहीं भी कोई भी सैनिक स्कूल स्थापित नहीं किया गया है। गुजरात राज्य सरकार से भुज या अहमदाबाद अथवा राज्य में किसी भी अन्य स्थान पर सैनिक स्कूल स्थापित किए जाने का कोई प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है।

Joint Indo-US army-naval exercise

4615. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news report

appearing in the 'Economic Times' dated 13th July, 1998, regarding the proposed army and naval exercises between India and the US which have been put on hold following nuclear tests but those with Pakistan will be held as scheduled next months, as per Washington Post report;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of Government thereto and the details thereof; and

(c) the details of action taken/ proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Consequent upon the underground nuclear explosions undertaken by India on May 11 and 13, 1998 the spokesman of the US Department of Defence announced cessation of all military exchanges and training exercises with India. In the light of this announcement, no armed force or defence-related exchanges with the USA, including joint naval exercises, are anticipated in the foreseeable future. the daily "Washington Post" has allegedly reported that US military exercises with Pakistan will take place as scheduled in August, 1998. Government of India will take a view on the resumption of military exchanges and exercises with USA after it takes the initiative to re-establish all streams of defence cooperation with India.

Think Tank Organisation

4616. SHRI VED PRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of think tank organisations India have on national security on the lines of USA, which has a developed think tank culture regarding strategic planning relevant to national security and at China, which has been able to develop strong think tanks;

(b) the name of Indian think tank organisations, their functions and area of operation;

(c) whether Government propose to take any step to further promote the think tank organisations relevant to national security; even in non-Governmental organisations;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There are numerous organisations in India which focus on national security matters wholly or in part including the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), the United Services Institution of India, the Forum for Strategic and Security Studies, the Centre for Policy Research, the Institute for Chinese Studies, the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, the Centre for Advanced Strategic Studies and the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Government endeavour to encourage the activities of think tank organisations through several deliberate measures such as financial assistance, promoting linkages with counterpart organisations, involvement in events like seminars and symposia, etc.

(e) Does not arise.

Indo-Russian defence cooperation

4617. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Russia have finalised a new 10th Year defence cooperation agreement; and

(b) if so, the broad features of the new cooperation agreement, especially relating to hardware supplies, technology transfer and joint ventures?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) During the visit of the then Raksha Mantri to Russia in October, 1997 both India and Russia agreed, in principle, to extend the existing Long Term Programme of Military Technical Co-operation between the two countries, beyond December, 1999 and up to the year 2010. The draft text of the Agreement was finalised during the visit of Defence Secretary to Russia from 15—19 June, 1998. The draft text provides for the mechanism for implementing and monitoring the long-term programme of military technical co-operation. It will not be in the interest of national security to disclose details of activities under the Military Technical Co-operation between the two countries.

Using IAF aircraft for non-official purposes

4618. SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state the penalties that are prescribed for a Minister or offcial of his Ministry who uses IAF Aircraft for non-official purposes and misrepresent them to have been Official?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): If an official journey is later proved to be a non-official one, recovery proceedings can be initiated by the appropriate competent authority.

Recovering of IAF aircraft expenditure

4619. SHRI ARUN SHOURIE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether there is any provision of law under which Government may waive responsibility of recovering the expenditure incurred on IAF aircraft by the Defence Minister for non-official journeys unconnected with the work of the Defence Ministry?:

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): The rules in force state that no recoveries will be made only in cases in which the Prime Minister considers it desirable that airlifts should be provided free of charge for reasons of state.

Jawans to distinguish alien aircrafts

4620. SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the surveillance system on the aircraft flying in the insurgency-ridden North-East has been revamped;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any specialised training has been given to jawans to distinguish between our own and the alien aircraft?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Surveillance System in the North-East has been improved. However, in the interest of national security it will not be desirable to disclose the details in this regard.

Defence radar system on Western Coast

4621. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether radar system of Navy and other defence forces on Western Coast is not functioning properly;

(b) whether the warning of coming cyclone approaching west coast that caused havoc on 9th June, 1998 in Kandla in Gujarat was not noticed on radar system; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to ensure proper functioning of radar system on Western Coast of the country?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (d) The Indian Navy and Indian Air Force do not have dedicated weather radars. Such radars are normally operated by the India Meteorological

Department (IMD). Weather messages are broadcast by the coastal radio stations for all mariners at sea, while local weather warnings are relayed through port organisations along the coast. In addition, Indian Navy also broadcasts normal weather messages to all ships twice daily from its wireless stations. In case the weather deteriorates or a cyclone develops, this frequency of transmission is increased.

(e) Not applicable.

Conveyance allowance to army personnel

4622. SHRI V. KISHORE CHANDRA S. DEO:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases with regard to the payment of conveyance allowance to army personnel for attending resettlement, courses attached to them before retirement where pre-boarding/ lodging was not provided which are pending with Government for settlement;

(b) whether they have been granted NRA for the said period; and

(c) if so, the reasons for delay in settlement of such claims?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Task forces for defence design

4623. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Confederation of Indian Industries and the Defence Research and Development Organisation have decided to set up a number of task forces to work out a joint partnership in defence design, development, production and marketing of products; and

(b) if so, the details of the task forces indicating the areas of cooperation to be explored?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Six task forces have been constituted by the Ministry of Defence to submit recommendations to enhance partnership between the Defence Ministry and the Industry.

(b) These Joint Task Forces have been constituted to submit recommendations in the following areas with a view to enhance the partnership with the Industry:—

(i) Defence-Industry Long Term Partnership.
(ii) Commercial Process.
(iii) DRDO-Industry Partnership.
(iv) Private Sector Undertakings/ Ordnance Factories/Private Sector complimentary.
(v) Defence Export Strategy.
(vi) Information Technology for Defence.

Modernisation of Fire Services

4624. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has come from Andhra Pradesh for modernising and expanding fire services;

(b) whether there are some Central Government schemes to finance the development of fire services; and

(c) if so, the details of schemes and finances offered to State Governments to upgrade their fire services?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) No such proposal has been received in the recent past.

(b) and (c) The Tenth Finance Commission has allocated Rs. 8000.00 lakhs for the States for upgradation of their fire services. The share of Andhra

Pradesh in this regard is Rs. 400.00 lakhs. The Central Government also arranges loans through the General Insurance Corporation of India for development of State fire services, whenever such requests are received from the State Governments. According to available information, loans for the State Government of Andhra Pradesh were also arranged in the past.

Special Investigation Agency

4625. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intend to set up a Special Investigation Agency to look into the growing crimes in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) There is no such proposal under consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi

4626. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps to track down conspirators responsible for the assassination of Shri Rajiv Gandhi on the basis of Jain Commission Report;

(b) if so, the details of the steps taken and the names of the conspirators; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in negative, the reasons for the delay?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) The Final Report of the Jain Commission of Inquiry is under examination by the Government and the Report as well as Memorandum of Action Taken thereon will be placed in Parliament soon.

ISI Agents in States

4627. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Pioneer', dated 23rd March, 1998, under the caption "ISI agents turn Indians to fool authorities";

(b) if so, what are the details of such agents operating in each State; and

(c) what action Government have taken to check their infiltration and operation in our territory?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

Following the civil strife in Afghanistan, a large number of Afghan nationals have been coming to India as refugees. In addition, a number of Pakhtoons have also been staying in India with an undefined status. As the situation in Afghanistan continues to be fluid, some of the Afghan nationals are reported to have fraudulently acquired Passports, Identity Cards etc. However, Government has no information regarding their working for Pak Intelligence Agencies. Similarly, the contention in the news article that there are over 10,000 Pak ISI agents operating in the North Eastern region of the India is highly exaggerated. Also there is no information regarding concentration of ISI agents in Tinsukia region of Assam.

(c) The Government has taken a number of steps to check illegal infiltration across our border. Border vigil and patrol have been intensified and fencing and flood lighting have been provided in sensitive areas like Punjab and Rajasthan. The State Governments are also sensitised from time to time and there is a coordinated effort among various security and intelligence agencies to check illegal infiltration in the country.

Communal Riots in Andhra Pradesh

4628. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of communal riots took place in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons killed/ injured and missing and loss of property in each case caused by these riots in the State;

(c) the compensation given by Government and the State Government to the next of kin, injured and those who have lost their property in each riot in the State; and

(d) what action has been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d): As per the available information, two communal riots took place in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years, in which a total of 14 persons were killed and 128 persons were injured. Compensation to the next of the kin of those killed, to injured and those who have lost their property in each riot is paid by the State Government as per norms prevalent in the State.

The State Governments, which are primarily concerned with the maintenance of "Public Order" are advised, from time to time, for taking action against persons spreading ill-will, hatred or disharmony between members of different communities as per provisions of various laws. The Central Government has also issued revised guidelines to the State Governments for promotion of communal harmony and various measures have been suggested for controlling the communal situation. It also assists the State Governments by sharing the intelligence and providing Central Para-Military Forces as per their requirements.

Bomb Blasts in Andhra Pradesh

4629. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of bomb blasts that took place in Andhra Pradesh during the last three years;

(b) the number of persons killed injured and loss of property in each bomb blast case;

(c) whether any enquiry has been conducted in each case and if so, the outcome of the enquiry; and

(d) the compensation given to the next of kin/injured in these blasts so far, and the action taken by Government to avoid such blasts in future?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Naxalism in Dandakaranya Region

4630. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an initiative to find a solution to the vexed problem of Naxalism in Dandakaranya region; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The Union Home Minister convened a meeting of the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa on 15.6.1998 at Hyderabad to review the action being taken by these States to curb the activities of left wing extremists. In this meeting, the following decisions were taken:—

(i) The existing laws such as the National Security Act will continue to be invoked by the concerned State Governments. Simultaneously, the State Governments could examine

enactment of a separate law to deal with the left wing extremist problem.

(ii) A comprehensive Plan of Action encompassing developmental activities as well as stepped up security measures will have to be prepared by the States. Andhra Pradesh Government have already prepared such a plan which has been referred to the Planning Commission. Other State Governments should also prepare similar plans which will be taken up with the Planning Commission for allocation of funds.

(iii) A Coordination Centre will be set up at Hyderabad for reviewing the progress of the Action Plan and to coordinate the efforts of the State Governments. Union Home Secretary will be the Chairman of the Committee with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the four States as Members.

Ministry of Home Affairs has set up the Coordination Centre on 26.6.1998. State Governments have been requested to take immediate action on the decisions taken at the meeting. Action taken by the State Governments is being reviewed from time to time.

Dual Citizenship to Indians settled abroad

4631. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision regarding grant of dual citizenship to people of Indian origin settled abroad;

(b) if so, the details of decision taken;

(c) if no decision has been taken, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by when a decision in this regard is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, the Union Finance Minister while presenting the Central Governments budget for 1998-99 on 1st June, 1998 had, interalia, declared that Government have decided to draw up a scheme for issuance of a Persons of Indian origin (PIO) Card for those living abroad and having foreign passports.

The PIO card, which would be extended to persons settled in countries to be specified by Government, would besides introducing a visa free regime also confer some special economic, educational, financial and cultural benefits.The details of the scheme are being worked out.

कच्छ विकास बोर्ड का गठन

4632. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या प्रधानमंत्री ने अपनी हाल ही अहमदाबाद यात्रा के दौरान काफी समय से लम्बित "कच्छ विकास बोर्ड" के गठन के संदर्भ में एक अधिकारिक घोषणा की थी;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने प्रस्तावित कच्छ विकास बोर्ड के गठन की सभी प्रक्रिया संबंधी औपचारिकताओं को पूरा कर लिया है;

(ग) क्या राज्य सरकार ने भी उक्त विकास बोर्ड के गठन के लिए व्यापक प्रस्ताव सरकार को प्रस्तुत किया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है और उक्त बोर्ड कब तक गठित कर दिए जाने की संभावना है?

गृह मंत्री (श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी): (क) 3 मई, 1998 को अहमदाबाद में आयोजित एक जन सभा में प्रधान मंत्री ने कच्छ क्षेत्र के त्वरित विकास के लिए एक कच्छ विकास बोर्ड के गठन की आवश्यकता के बारे में बोला था।

(ख) से (घ) महाराष्ट्र में विकास बोर्डों के आधार पर कच्छ के लिए एक विकास बोर्ड गठित करने संबंधी एक प्रस्ताव गुजरात राज्य सरकार से प्राप्त हुआ है। मामले पर सक्रिय रूप से विचार किया जा रहा है।

Atrocities on Christian Missionaries

4633. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government received representations against the atrocities committed against the christian missionaries in India;

(b) if so, the action taken on the representation?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

Representations as and when received are forwarded to the concerned State Govts. for taking appropriate action under the law, as 'Public Order' appears at Entry No. 1 under List II-State List of the 7th Schedule of the Constitution of India. It is the responsibility of the State Govts. to maintain 'Public Order' which is a State subject. The attention of the State Govts. is drawn from time to time for taking action against persons spreading ill-will, hatred or disharmony between members of different communities by issuing guidelines from time to time. The latest guidelines on communal harmony were issued by the Central Govt. to all the States/UTs on 22.10.1997 suggesting various measures for controlling the communal situation. The Central Govt. also assists the State Govts. by sharing the intelligence and providing Central Paramilitary Forces as and when necessary.

Smuggling of Uranium

4634. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a powerful international gang aided by Pakistan's Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) agency and backed by a section of the Bihar Police and the Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL) have been smuggling out highly radio active uranium from mines of Bihar;

(b) if so, the action taken so far to prevent the same; and

(c) whether any person was arrested in connection with the uranium smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Government has no information regarding smuggling of radio active uranium from mines of Bihar.

However, on June 30, 1998, P.S. Muzaffarpur (Bihar) recovered two pounds of material in sealed packets with the marking made in USA-Uranium-2 pounds, half kilo explosives in Horlicks bottle, 500 grams of Gunpowder, 3 hand made bombs, some detonators etc.

On examination of packets suspected to contain Uranium in the laboratory, it turned to be a type of resin used in plastic industries. 3 persons have been arrested under the Explosive Substance Act.

Coordination Committee to Tackle Naxalite Menace

4635. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a coordination Committee headed by Union Home Secretary has been set up to effectively tackle the Naxalite menace in the country;

(b) if so, the terms of reference and composition thereof;

(c) the areas affected by the menace; and

(d) the strategies proposed to combat the extremists?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The terms of reference of the Coordination Centre are as under:

(i) To review the status of the activities of left wing extremist groups in the four affected States of Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Orissa;

(ii) to monitor the progress of the Plan of Action in respect of each State; and

(iii) to make recommendations, both on development and security aspects of the problem for their resolution.

The Coordination Centre is headed by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the four affected States, as Members.

(c) The districts primarily affected by Left Wing Extremism in these States are as follows:—

Andhra Pradesh: Warangal, Karimnagar, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Khammam, Medak and Nalgonda.

Madhya Pradesh: Bastar, Balaghat and Rajnandgaon.

Maharashtra: Gadchiroli, Chandrapur, and Bhandara.

Orissa: Malkangiri, Ganjam, Koraput, Gajapati and Rayagada.

(d) Central Government has taken adequate measures to help the States to fight the menace. These include holding of coordination meetings with the States concerned as well as with the various intelligence and investigating agencies of the Central Government to exchange information, share intelligence, plan strategy and take coordinated action. In certain special circumstances financial assistance has also been given to some of the affected States over and above the on-going allocations for modernisation of police and supply of weapons. Training of police personnel in anti-extremist operations has also been arranged. Central Government in consultation with the concerned States has drawn up an Action Plan in this regard which includes:

(i) Ensuring security of police stations, particularly those located in naxalite affected areas.

(ii) Having a common communication systems.

(iii) Setting up a Control Room in each State.

(iv) Joint patrolling.

(v) Launching of area Domination programme among the States.

(vi) Strengthening of intelligence network in affected areas in concerned states.

(vii) Training of police personnel in anti-extremist operations.

State Governments have been requested to take immediate steps to implement the above Action Plan. Action taken by the States is being reviewed from time to time.

Militancy in J&K

4636. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what specific steps have been taken in pursuance of the new policy, the so called pro-active policy, which take place of the earlier "reaction policy" to deal with militant activities in Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) what positive results have followed the adoption of the new policy?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) With a view to tackling the militancy problem sponsored from across the border in Jammu and Kashmir, the Government have adopted a multi-pronged approach which includes inter-alia strengthening border management, neutralising plans of militants by proactive action against them, gearing up intelligence machinery, galvanising development

programmes and deepening the democratic process etc.

2. While the number of militants killed in June this year is higher than that of May, it is not possible to make an immediate assessment of the overall results of the policy. The Kashmir militancy is sponsored, aided and abetted by Pakistan, and thus it requires sustained and systematic efforts to tackle it.

Visit of Home Minister to Jammu and Kashmir

4637. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he again paid a visit to the terrorist hit areas of Jammu following the cold blooded murder of 25 or more persons belonging to two marriage parties;

(b) what were the main observations of his team and what relief has so far been paid to the families of victims;

(c) the number of persons including women, children killed at the hands of militants in Jammu and Kashmir during the period since March, 1998, indicating the details of the incidents of militancy, and the number of militants killed or apprehended in connection therewith; and

(d) what effective steps have been and are being taken to deal with militants including foreign mercenaries engaged in militancy and related activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During their visit to Chapnari and Prem Nagar (both located within a short distance of Doda), the Home Minister and Officers accompanying him interacted with members of public available at the spot including survivors of the incident and members of the victim families. The Home Minister expressed his concern at such incidents and sympathy for the survivors. He also assured them that efforts are being made to ensure their security. Exgratia relief is paid to the families of the victims by the State Government as per standard norms fixed by them.

(c) The number of civilians killed during the period from 1st March 1998 to 15th July, 1998 is 337. Some of the major incidents perpetrated by the militants recently include killing of 26 persons at Parankot and Dhakikot villages in Distt. Udhampur on 17/18 April, 1998, killing of 9 persons in Doda and 4 persons in Surankot in Poonch District between May 4-6, 1998 and killing 25 persons of marriage parties in Chapnari village of Doda District on 19th June, 1998. As informed by the State Government, total number of incidents of militancy from 1st March, 1998 to 15th July, 1998 have been 1068. During this period 280 militants were killed and 403 apprehended.

(d) Intensive anti-militancy operations are being undertaken. The security forces/States Police have been redeployed at the strategic places to instill confidence in the people in the vulnerable areas. Close vigil is also being kept by the Security Forces and the intelligence agencies along the border/LOC and in the interior areas. System of Village Defence Committee is being strengthened.

Creation of Ministry of Border Security in Gujarat

4638. SHRI AHMED PATEL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has caused a direct infringement on the domain of the Central Government by creating a Ministry of Border Security in the State as the Centre has the sole constitutional authority to provide security to the country's frontiers; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government on this extraordinary development in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) According to available information, the State Government of Gujarat has created a separate Division, namely Border Security, under the administrative control of its Home Department for further strengthening policing and security arrangements in the border areas. Activities like infiltration and smuggling of arms, ammunitions, explosives, narcotics, contraband goods, etc. have a direct bearing on "Public Order", which is a State subject as per List II in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India.

Crime in the Country

4639. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of attempted rapes and molestations in the country during the first six months of the current year (1998); and what are the comparative figures for the preceding three spells of six months each; and

(b) whether the number of cases per lakh of population in the capital was the highest; if not, which State or Union Territory headed the list?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) Available information in regard to incidents of rape and molestation during the relevant period is given in the enclosed Annexure. *[See* Appendix 184, Annexure No. 114]

(b) So far as total cognizable crime against women is concerned, crime per lakh of population during the year 1997 was the highest in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. However, in regard to crime under the Heads 'Rape' and 'Molestation', crime per lakh of population was the highest in Mizoram and Madhya Pradesh respectively.

Cognizable Crimes

4640. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply of Unstarred Question 2355 given in the Rajya Sabha on 7th July, 1998, and state:

(a) inspite of the urgency shown by the Ministry, figures are not readily available, at least till 30th June;

(b) whether the States are sending the reports or not;

(c) if so, whether all the States have lapsed and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the figures for the States who have given more updated figures in the same format as asked for in Unstarred Question 2355?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) to (c) Crime statistics are captured at police station level and consolidated at District and State Police Headquarters for onward transmission to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB). NCRB starts receiving data for a month from State Police authorities from the following month. The data for June' 98 is not available from any State. Several States have not provided information even for earlier months. Details in this regard are contained in the enclosed statement (Annexure-I). [See Appendix 184, Annexure No. 115].

(d) Available information in regard to incidents of cognizable crime like murders, dacoities, robberies and burglaries, crime against women and crime against Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes during the period February to May'98 is given in the enclosed statements (Annexures-II to IV). *[See* Appendix 184, Annexure No. 116]. The data for the month of May'98 has still not been received from 16 States and 4 Union territories.

फोन-मित्रता की आड़ में देह-व्यापार

4641. **श्री रमा शंकर कौशिक:**
श्री रामगोपाल यादव:

क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान दिनांक 5 जुलाई, 1998 को "राष्ट्रीय सहारा" में "फोन-मित्रता के नाम पर देह-व्यापार" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो सरकार की इस पर क्या प्रतिक्रिया है तथा इस संबंध में क्या कार्रवाई की गई है?

गृह मंत्री (श्री लाल कृष्ण आडवाणी): (क) और (ख) जी हां, श्रीमान! दिल्ली पुलिस ने समाचार पत्रों में विज्ञापित कुछ टेलीफोन नम्बरों के आधार पर यह पता लगाने के लिए जांच-पड़ताल की थी कि क्या इन टेलीफोन नम्बरों का प्रयोग देह व्यापार के लिए तो नहीं किया जा रहा है। तथापि, जांच-पड़ताल से इन टेलीफोन नम्बरों के स्वामियों द्वारा किसी प्रकार की ऐसी गैर-कानूनी गतिविधि किए जाने का पता नहीं चला है।

Task Force for Arresting Veerappan

4642. PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to constitute a task force with collaboration of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka Government to nab elusive sandalwood smuggler Veerappan who has been abducting time to time and abducted four persons recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) and (b) The Central Government is not considering constitution of a Task Force to nab Veerappan, since a Special Task Force comprising the Police Officers from Tamil Nadu and Karnataka is already in existence for this purpose.

Human Rights Commission in the States

4643. SHRI KHAGEN DAS:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 28 given in the Rajya Sabha on 27th May, 1998 and state:

(a) the dates on which each of these State Human Rights Commission have come into existence in the concerned States;

(b) whether the National Human Rights Commission has made many observations about the function of any of these State Commissions and the cooperation accorded to them by the respective State Governments; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI): (a) As per the available information, the date on which each State Human Rights Commission has come into existence in the concerned states, is given in the enclosed statement *(See below)*.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Paras 8.4 and 8.5 of the Annual Report of the National Human Rights Commission for the year 1996-97 contain the observations of the Commission regarding the functioning of the State Human Rights Commissions. The Annual Report of the Comission for the year 1996-97 has been laid on the Table of Rajya Sabha on 10.6.98.

Statement

Date on which the State Human Rights Commission has come into Existence in the States.

Name of the State	*Date of which State Human Rights Commission has come into existence in the State*
Assam	19.03.96
Himachal	18.03.95
Jammu & Kashmir	08.08.97
Madhya Pradesh	13.09.95